

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2008

FEMA Map Changes Alamo Heights Flood Plain



The Federal Emergency Management Agency's recently released flood insurance studies and flood insurance map will change the location of the 100-year flood plain in several areas of Alamo Heights.

Alamo Heights property owners who have not seen the map may view it

online at <http://cip.sara-tx.org/website/cip/viewer.htm> by typing in your address or by visiting the city's Public Works Department.

After reviewing the map, property owners are given an opportunity to protest or appeal flood plain map changes by linking to http://www.bexarwatershed.org/tools_protest_appeal.php and downloading an application. Read the application and then determine if you are protesting or appealing the changes. Your protest or appeal must be based on data that shows that the proposed flood plain's base flood elevations are scientifically or technically incorrect.

The San Antonio River Authority Floodplain Management Office serves as the Bexar County coordinating administrative body for FEMA and will receive all protests and appeals. The office can be

reached by telephone at 227-1373. The formal 90-day appeal period will start soon but you may begin submitting protests and appeals to SARA now.

FEMA will send an acknowledgement letter and inform SARA and the city of Alamo Heights of your case. After FEMA makes a determination on all cases, they will then decide if the flood plain map requires revisions. The timeframe needed by FEMA is uncertain but a new flood plain map and flood plain development ordinance could be adopted by the City Council as early as this Fall or as late as Fall 2009.

If you need assistance from the city of Alamo Heights, please call Jack Guerra, community development manager, at 882-1504.

Cancellation of May Election

The City Council has canceled the May 10 General Election, since only incumbent City Council members filed for the three positions that were to be placed on the ballot and no write-in candidates declared candidacy.

State law allows the City Council to cancel the election and declare the candidates who filed for a place on the ballot elected to office if only one candidate files for each Council position.

The three council positions that were to be on the ballot currently are held by Jill Souter, Place Three; Bill Kiel, Place Four; and Susan Harwell, Place Five. The three will be sworn in and receive their Certificates of Election at the May 19 City Council meeting.

City Extends Fiscal Year

The City Council has passed an ordinance to extend the current fiscal year budget ending March 31 and to establish a new fiscal year ending Sept. 30. The Council also adopted a budget for the six-month period.

The PowerPoint presentation summarizing revenue and expenditure changes and information concerning the six-month budget are available at City Hall and the city's Web site www.alamoheightstx.gov.

Calendar

April

25 Holiday City Offices Closed

28 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

May

5 Planning and Zoning Meeting - Tentative 5:30 p.m.

7 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 p.m.

12 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

19 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

20 Architectural Review Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.

26 Holiday* City Offices Closed

* Regular Solid Waste Schedule

911 for EMERGENCY

Fire/EMS (Non Emergency): 824-1281

Police (Non-Emergency): 822-3321

Police Administration Office: 822-6433

Police Investigations: 822-2164

CITY HALL

Administration: 822-3331

Taxes: 882-1502

Water: 882-1507

Court Clerk: 882-1501

Public Works: 826-0516 (includes permits, garbage & trash, brush, recycling, inspections, etc.)

Mayor & Aldermen

Louis Cooper-MAYOR

882-1511

lcooper@alamoheightstx.gov

Bobby Rosenthal- MAYOR PRO TEM

PLACE 2

882-1513

broseenthal@alamoheightstx.gov

Stan McCormick-PLACE 1

882-1512

smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov

Jill Souter-PLACE 3

882-1514

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Bill Kiel-PLACE 4

882-1515

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Susan Harwell-PLACE 5

882-1516

sharwell@alamoheightstx.gov

City Officials

Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER

882-1500

rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov

Shawn Eddy-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

882-1506

seddy@alamoheightstx.gov

Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF

832-2200

rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Woodward-INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

832-2206

bwoodward@alamoheightstx.gov

Cynthia Barr-DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

882-1502

cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov

**Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
MANAGER/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MANAGER**

882-1508

mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov

Denise Silva - CITY SECRETARY

832-2209

dsilva@alamoheightstx.gov

**Judie Surratt-HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY**

882-1503

jsurratt@alamoheightstx.gov

Website: www.alamoheightstx.gov

CITY BRIEFS

City Adds ATM Machine

The city has installed an ATM for the convenience of customers who wish to pay their bills with a debit or credit card. The machine at City Hall accepts Visa, Discover, Pulse, American Express, MasterCard, Cirrus, Plus and Star cards and is located inside the door of the Police Department to provide added security. The convenience fee is \$1.50 per transaction.

Follow Tips to Secure ATM Transactions

When using any ATM machine, consider the following tips to ensure security:

- Pay attention to your surroundings and consider taking a friend with you to use an ATM at night or in a deserted area.
- Park in a well-lit area close to the ATM and prepare your transactions before approaching the ATM.
- If you notice something suspicious or feel uncomfortable, cancel your transaction and leave the ATM immediately. Report all crimes immediately to local law enforcement.
- Memorize your PIN. Do not write your PIN on your card and never give your PIN to anyone. The bank will not call you to request the information.
- When using an ATM or point-of-sale terminal, shield the keypad while entering your PIN.
- Put your cash in your handbag or pocket immediately; wait to count it until you get home or are safely locked in your car.
- Take your transaction receipt with you. Do not leave it at the ATM.

Protect your card as you would cash, checks or credit cards. Report lost or stolen cards immediately.

New Sewer Rates Appear on April Bills

Sewer rates for April 2008 – March 2009 have been calculated based on the November, December and January water usage. The recalculated rate will first appear on your April 2008 bill.

For questions concerning sewer rates and/or winter averaging, please call Lety Hernandez, utility billing coordinator, at 882-1507.

Survey Work along Broadway

Citizens may have noticed the first stages of the implementation of the City's approved

capital improvement program (CIP) as evidenced by the initiation of survey work along Broadway by CEC Engineering.

The survey crews began work in March and should complete their work by the end of April. Please feel free to call the City's Public Works Department at 826-0516 if you should have any questions concerning this work or the CIP.

Email Notification Program

If you are interested in receiving notifications concerning street closures, emergency water interruptions, City Council agendas and important events occurring in the City of Alamo Heights, please sign-up for the City's e-mail notification program. You can sign up by either going to www.alamoheightstx.gov/news or emailing a request to be added to the program to mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov.

Alamo Heights EMS Receives Heart Alert Recognition

The Baptist HealthCare System has recognized the Alamo Heights Fire/EMS among participants in its newly implemented Heart Alert program. Alamo Heights received recognition not only as a participant but as one of the four original EMS systems to have the capability to transmit medical information to Baptist hospitals when cardiac events take place.

The Heart Alert Program streamlines the protocol for cardiac care used by emergency staff in the field and physicians in Emergency Room. This is accomplished through the use of specialized heart monitors that can transmit hospital quality test results to the emergency room before the patient arrives. The ER physician can then determine the next step in treating the patient, minimizing the time the patient is in the emergency room before treatment begins.

EMS System and grant funds purchased the heart monitors used to transmit 12-Lead ECGs to Baptist hospitals. EMS staff participate in frequent training, making the system one of the leading EMS organizations in the region.

Fire Department Promotion

The Fire/EMS Department has promoted Jeffery Keuper to the rank of lieutenant. A member of the department since 1999, Keuper has been active in training, has worked with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council on the Emergency Operations specializing in swift water rescue.